5/30/75

Mr. Tom Susman, counsel
Administrative Practises Subcommittee
Senate Office Bldg.,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Tom,

As this whole thing that worries me comes to a head faster than I'd anticipated, I do grow more concerned. The most recent developments are of special concern because their sources have not been fully informative to the reporters, because there is reason to wonder about unseen official hands, because the Ford interest is more apparent to me and because this whole thing remains consistent with a new variation of the framing of Kennedys with responsibility.

Who benefits today from the angling of today's AP story (which I've not seen) as so heavily played on the CBS-TV morning news, that the CIA and the FBI withheld information on plots against Castro? And who is hurt when simultaneously it is also reported that JFK and RFK were behind these plots or privy to them? With the present possibility that the official mythology can come apart, Ford, who was on the Commission and has special problems for it, is the obvious beneficiary. He will appear to be innocent and the Kennedys and the Democratic administration will appear to be the real villains.

Together with this there is the report that RFK wrote Warren a letter in August in which he said he knew of no reason to believe there was any kind of foreign or domestic conspiracy. This gets the Post Mortem chapter I've mentioned before. The full story is there. RFK did not write the letter. The letter was not even his idea. And it has a disclaimer of any personal knowledge in it.

Here again we get to what I've mentioned to you before, misplaced trust.

The letter was drafted by Howard P. Willens, a DJ lawyer on loan to the Commission, its staff director and DJ liaison. Rankin ordered or approved it. I have these documents, including the drafts and that of the RFK letter sent by the Commission to him even before the request for it reached him, with the date of the request blank. Even then it took Bobby from June to August to send that letter. In no sense is it as some source told AP, which quoted merely a single clause.

Please do not assume that I am suggesting a conscious conspiracy in all of this. I feel that there has to be some orchestration but for the most part anyone knowing what to expect of competent reporters could anticipate what they will want to know. Moreover, there are many with self-interest to serve and it necessarily guides them all the same way. One of these is Belin. He is anything but like his public pose of pious purity. He framed the basic evidence essential to a phoney JFK assassination story. I mean personally and I also have evidence refuting it he withheld. Whatever he may be on other subjects, I regard him as psychopathic on this one.

In all of this the public and the media mind is again being conditioned. As with the careful leaking with the Warren Report, it serves to give credibility to what I do think the Rockefeller Commission will say, what would not dare be alleged in an open proceeding and what simply would not be credible without this elaborate preparation.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg